

Claims

- [c1] 1.In a method of playing a conventional or variant game of blackjack between a dealer and a player where the player is dealt two initial cards and the dealer is dealt a single initial card (the "three initial cards"), an improvement comprising the steps of:
 - (a)allowing the player to place a side bet;
 - (b)paying or collecting the side bet in accordance with a pre-established set of rules which cover all possible combinations of the three initial cards.
- [c2] 2.The method of claim 1 wherein the pre-established set of rules provides a winning side bet for the player in one or more of the following circumstances:
 - (a)the sum of the three initial cards is greater than or equal to 19, but not greater than 21;
 - (b)the sum of the three initial cards is equal to 21 and the player's cards are all of one suit;
 - (c)the three initial cards are sequential, whether or not they are of different suits; and
 - (d)the three initial cards are the same card, whether or not they are of different suits.
- [c3] 3.The method of claim 2 wherein the game is played

with at least three decks and wherein the pre-established set of rules provides a winning side bet for the player in one or more of the following circumstances

- (a)the three initial cards are sequential and of the same suit; and
- (b)the three initial cards are the same card and of the same suit.

[c4] 4.The method of claim 3 wherein the only winning circumstance where the three initial cards are sequential are if the cards are 6, 7 and 8.

[c5] 5.The method of claim 3 or 4 wherein the only winning circumstance where the three initial cards are the same are if the cards are all 7.

[c6] 6.The method of claim 1 where in the pre-established set of rules provides winning side bets in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2.

[c7] 7.A method of playing blackjack or 21, comprising the steps of:

- (a)dealing two initial cards to a player and a single initial card to a dealer (the "three initial cards");
- (b)allowing the player to place a side bet;
- (c)paying or collecting the side bet in accordance with a pre-established set of rules which cover all possible

combinations of the three initial cards; and
(d)continuing with the blackjack game.

- [c8] 8.The method of claim 7 wherein the pre-established set of rules provides winning side bets in accordance with Table 1 or Table 2.